



NRO REVIEW COMPLETED

GOR - 0750

27 January 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR : Acting Chief, DFD

SUBJECT : Development Branch Activity Report, 18-22 January 1960

1. OXCART:

a. On 19 January Mr. Bissell briefed [redacted] of Minneapolis-Honeywell Regulator Company, on the OXCART program and general requirements for an inertial navigation and autopilot systems. It was pointed out that the selection of M-H to provide the foregoing systems is conditional on the proposal cost estimates being reasonable from this Project's point-of-view. Since the M-H Inertial Guidance Center, Florida, and the autopilot department, Minneapolis, both are in the same M-H Division, a single contract for both systems was recommended. A contract, when formulated, will be of the associate-prime type, with Lockheed providing technical direction. M-H was directed to have cleared representatives at the OXCART suppliers meeting scheduled for 21 January and [redacted] indicated that [redacted] would represent M-H at the meeting.

b. Two meetings were held in Boston, 20 January, with Land Panel consultants pertaining to OXCART with Mr. Bissell and Project Headquarters representatives. One meeting was devoted to a review of the status of the [redacted] A-12; the other, concerned the status of the Perkin-Elmer camera. The Land Panel consultants were impressed with the progress made [redacted] A result of the camera review meeting of the 18' system was to have Perkin-Elmer investigate a 24' system.

c. On 21 January an OXCART suppliers progress review meeting was held in Washington. After a general status review, much attention was devoted to increasing weight problem and the resultant degradation in altitude and range of the A-12. Mr. C. L. Johnson was directed to address himself to this problem in order to achieve a specified minimum range and altitude profile for a mission. Further, Mr. Johnson was instructed to provide estimates of A-12 performance [redacted] A decision concerning go-ahead was being held in abeyance until receipt and evaluation of this information. Mr. Johnson promised to furnish the data by 25 January and Mr. Bissell indicated that he hoped to be able to render a decision to Lockheed before 27 January.

2. CORONA/ARGON:

a. The count down for the shot on the 26th was interrupted when trouble developed on account of fluctuations in current from the auxiliary power supply. The firing date was slipped to the 29th. It may be that the

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ripple caused by such fluctuations is sufficient to activate the torque motor on the take-up side or to cause uneven operation, and might be the major source of our difficulties. The fix planned by Lockheed will be reviewed on January 27th by Colonel Battle, Mr. Kiefer and [] before the go signal is given.

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b. Meetings were held with [] to review status on the back-up tracking system for ARGON.

3. CHALICE:

The [] report on cooling U-2 fuel was received and evaluated. A recommendation was made to the C/Operations Branch that the cooling of fuel system is too complex for field utilization and that the matter be dropped.

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Chief, Development Branch
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